IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page 4, please replace paragraph [0015] with the following amended paragraph:

[0015] Figures 2 and 3 are each perspective views of an exemplary rotor blade 40 that may be used with gas turbine engine 10 (shown in Figure 1). And viewed from an opposite sides of blade 40. Figure 4 is a side view of a portion of rotor blade 40, and ~~Figures 5 and 6 are each cross-sectional views~~ Figure 5 is a cross-sectional view of a portion of rotor blade 40 taken along ~~respective lines 5-5 and 6-6~~ line 5-5. When blades 40 are coupled within a rotor assembly, such as turbine 14 (shown in Figure 1), each rotor blade 40 is coupled to a rotor disk (not shown) that is rotatably coupled to a rotor shaft, such as shaft 18 (shown in Figure 1). In an alternative embodiment, blades 40 are mounted within a rotor spool (not shown). In the exemplary embodiment, blades 40 are identical and each extends radially outward from the rotor disk and includes an airfoil 60, a platform 62, a shank 64, and a dovetail 66. In the exemplary embodiment, airfoil 60, platform 62, shank 64, and dovetail 66 are collectively known as a bucket.

At page 6, please replace paragraph [0024] with the following amended paragraph:

[0024] An overall size, shape, and location of slot 160 with respect to blade 40 varies depending on flow requirements necessary to ensure adequate cooling flow to platform undercut 140. A relative location of purge slot 160 is empirically determined relative to a datum W and to an aft surface 170 of downstream skirt 92. More specifically, in the exemplary embodiment, purge slot 160 is a distance D_1 aft of a datum W and a ~~distance D_1~~ distance D_2 upstream from skirt surface 170. In the exemplary embodiment, distance D_1 is approximately 0.765 inches and distance D_2 is approximately 0.48 inches.